Approved For Release 2009/05/28 : CIA-RDP89-00642R000200240002-5

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FORM NO . 241 REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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22 November 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, DRD

My

SUBJECT

: Evaluation of CANADIAN PRESS

- 1. A review of the sample 48-hour file of Canadian Press shows the file to have the following characteristics:
  - a. It is a full broadcast/newspaper file with emphasis on weather; full stock market listings, a heavy financial file, with much color and backgrounders. Sports file was heavy.
  - b. Fully a third of "Book I" was devoted to three topics: a major jailbreak, an airline crash in the Canadian North, and the domination by U.S. firms of the blue jean market in Canada.
  - c. There was a decided lack of material which FBIS looks for: dealings with the Bloc, discussions or activities of Common Markets, foreign trade, high level visits, etc. This may well have been a reflection of the 24-hour periods represented by these files (30 Oct-1 Nov).
- 2. Of the items which FBIS might well have used there were:
  - a. Energy minister describes oil reserves in Athabasca as "stupendous."
  - b. Selection of editorials from the French Canadian press. Topics covered here were: Arab-Israeli negotiations prospect, Petrodollar banking policies, Canadian immigration restrictions in the face of inflation, unemployment.
  - c. Of value to FBIS would have been a discussion of the policies Canada had planned to follow at the food conference in Rome (quite comprehensive) and a charge by a Canadian official that a Canadian plane which had "crashed" in Syria, resulting in the death of nine Canadian Emergency Force soldiers, had actually been shot down by the Syrians. Of interest also was a detailed debate in the Canadian Parliament on Canadian oil policies.
- 3. Given the cost of this service (\$5,200 yearly) it is judged not sufficiently cost productive for us to purchase it. In comparison with AFP at \$8,200 yearly for worldwide rights it is no bargain.

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C/ LA/WE DRD	